

9 March 1951

Mrs. Frederick Ballard



Dear Mrs. Ballard:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of March 1, 1951, with regard to [redacted]. It was a great pleasure to have had the opportunity of meeting and talking with [redacted] and I can assure you that we are anxious to ascertain in what manner we could best avail ourselves of her very unique services.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles  
Deputy Director

AWD:at

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My dear Mr. Dulles:

I know full well that such a busy man as you does not have the time to read chatty letters from a strange woman, but, in spite of all that I cannot refrain from writing you to tell you how happy I am over an action of yours that, I am prayerfully hopeful, will bring to Washington and the State Department, a woman of such distinction, nationally and internationally, as will stand, always, as a monument to your discriminating judgment and keen grasp of what is needed in this tense time.

My reference is to [redacted] of Indianapolis, and, I might say, "of the world"-- since she is just as much at home in India as in Indianapolis, in England as in Evansville-- and, so on and so forth all over the whole world.

I will have to admit that I am a bit prejudiced for I am one of her most sincere admirers-- as a former newspaper reporter in Indiana-- I have known of her for years, and, in our profession, there are no finer judges of phonies nor quicker to puncture their inflated ego's-- please, believe me when I tell you that among newspaper woman, and, men, [redacted] is accorded the respect and genuine liking that is reserved by that "hard-boiled" profession for those who merit such consideration.

[redacted] comes from a pioneer family in Indiana, and, has all the simplicity and sincereness that comes from being grounded and deeply rooted in the great truths that one absorbs in childhood of honesty, integrity, forthrightness and kindness. She is a fine woman-- cultured, educated, both in books and heart, her horizon has been widened and her consciousness alerted by her world travels and contacts with the women of the world-- for, after all, Judy O'Grady and the Admiral's Lady are sisters under their skin, and, so women, are the same everywhere-- the only difference being the opportunity given them. You can fool men about another man, but, you can NEVER fool a woman about another woman. We can see thro them with measuring eyes-- and, in this regard let me tell you, that when you measure [redacted] by American or European eyes, you get the same result, a good woman, trained, wise and a leader who is trusted.

So, just know that at this Easter month in which the blessed religious theme of the Resurrection is in every mind and heart, that, translated into everyday living, the women of my country and the others in more troubled lands, would feel a real resurrection of hope and faith when they were told that the woman whose inspired leadership they had followed, was, once again, in a place where they could look to her for guidance.

With every good wish for you now and always, I am,  
Sincerely,

Mrs. Frederick Ballard